

his service and I congratulate them as well on this special occasion. I am proud to share in the celebration of Colonel Doolin's military career, and as he and his family move to this next chapter of his life, I wish Colonel Doolin "fair winds and following seas" as he embarks on his future endeavors. *Semper Fidelis* Marine.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JAMES BURKUSH AND HIS SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Granite State first responder for his thirty-nine years of service to the Manchester Fire Department in Manchester, NH.

Chief James Burkush joined the Manchester Fire Department in 1977 and became Chief in 2008. Firefighter Burkush was a standout member of the department and worked through the ranks of the department over the next thirty one years before being appointed Chief on February 19, 2008. Throughout his storied career Chief Burkush responded to many different calls, but it is the efficiency and professionalism with which Chief Burkush handled every situation, no matter how dire, that makes him an exceptional leader and role model. Chief Burkush remains an exemplary public servant, and I applaud his dedication to making his community a better, safer place to live.

On April 29, 2016 Chief Burkush retired from the Manchester Fire Department with thirty nine years of service to the people of Manchester and the Granite State. He will now take on the role of Chief with the Hooksett Fire and Rescue Department. On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of New Hampshire, I thank him for his dedicated service to the community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARTY MARASCO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND RETIREMENT FROM THE ALTOONA-BLAIR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Martin Marasco's many invaluable contributions to and retirement from the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation.

Mr. Marasco has been the President and CEO of the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, known as ABCD Corp, since 1994. His work has been fundamental in helping the industrial and commercial economic expansion in Blair County. Specifically, under his leadership, ABCD Corp. has facilitated over 800 economic development projects, totaling in excess of \$1.5 billion in total project costs that have resulted in the creation and re-

tention of over 19,000 jobs. Thanks to his hard work, Blair County has seen the growth and introduction of businesses, which in turn have helped improve the standard of living for many families and individuals in Blair County.

Among his many responsibilities, Mr. Marasco was the Executive Director of the Blair County Industrial Authority and Blair County General Authority, which are public agencies that help provide information and pathways for public funding and taxable and tax-exempt financing.

Furthermore, I am happy to highlight that this dedication has not gone unnoticed, as Mr. Marasco has been the recipient of awards from the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), Boy Scouts of America, Kiwanis Club, Italian Heritage Society and others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Mr. Marasco, who has devoted his life to serving Blair County. On behalf of the many people he has positively impacted, I offer our tremendous gratitude. I am proud to serve constituents like Mr. Marasco, and wish him well in retirement.

HONORING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week as National Teacher Appreciation Week. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our heartfelt gratitude to all the exceptional men and women who dedicate their life's work towards the education of our youth. As a former member of the Miami-Dade County's School Board, I know firsthand the commitment and sacrifices our teachers make to ensure that our students have a solid educational foundation. Our teachers are the key to guiding our students in becoming the productive citizens and future leaders of our nation. With each lesson they teach, they bring wisdom, instill growth, inspire love, and enlighten the path for our youth. It is with profound honor and humility that I thank teachers universally for being mentors and motivators.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. GERVAIS OXENDINE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Mr. Gervais Oxendine and to commemorate the legacy of service to North Carolina he left behind.

Mr. Gervais Oxendine ("Mr. Gervais" as he was affectionately referred to by folks in Robeson County) was born on August 18, 1943 in Robeson County. After growing up in the area and attending Pembroke State College (now UNC Pembroke), Gervais was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He served his country for four years during the Vietnam War aboard the USS *Forrestal*.

Mr. Gervais' lifetime of service to our country continued even after his enlistment ended. His son, Eric Oxendine, is currently a U.S. Navy Captain. Gervais was also an integral member of the Lumbee Warriors Association, a local non-profit group that helps veterans across the region who are struggling with PTSD. Additionally, Gervais was a lifetime member of VFW Post 2843 in Pembroke.

Gervais was a successful businessman, working more than 32 years in key management positions for Abbott Laboratories. Gervais played an important role in the company's expansion into the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and received Abbott Lab's President's Award on four separate occasions.

More than any of his notable career or military accomplishments, folks across North Carolina knew Gervais as a man who fought fiercely for Robeson County and the Lumbee Native American Tribe. Mr. Gervais served on the UNC Pembroke Board of Trustees for eight years, during which time he worked closely with North Carolina Board of Governors officials to advocate for UNCP. He was also a key leader for issues facing the Lumbee Tribe, and aggressively supported efforts for federal tribal recognition, along with additional state and federal resources for his people.

Mr. Gervais was seen as the go-to-guy in Robeson County when it came to turning political ideas into real policy reforms to help the region. He was one of my first supporters in the area, and I'll never be able to repay the debt of gratitude I owe for his friendship and counsel over the years. I'm going to dearly miss my friend, Gervais Oxendine, but I know his legacy will live on through his wonderful wife, Dr. Olivia Holmes Oxendine, his two sons and three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mr. Gervais Oxendine for his service to Robeson County and his commitment to bettering the lives of everyone in our community and state.

HONORING PETER "P-B" BIELAK

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter "P-B" Bielak of Washington, D.C., who recently received the Silver Beaver Award for his outstanding contributions to the Boy Scouts of America here in the District of Columbia.

P-B has dedicated his life to furthering the scouting movement and preserving its storied legacy in the United States. A Scout Historian for over 40 years and enthusiastic vexillologist, P-B is the person scouts go to with questions about old patches, uniforms and flags. A symbol of his dedication to getting more boys involved in scouts, P-B recently helped found the Helping Other Scout Troops Incorporate Needed Gear (HOSTING) program, which collects uniforms, sleeping bags, backpacks, tents, and cooking gear for financially needy youth and adults all over the D.C. area. Due to its overwhelming success, the HOSTING program outgrew its warehouse space and plans to increase its imprint on the community.